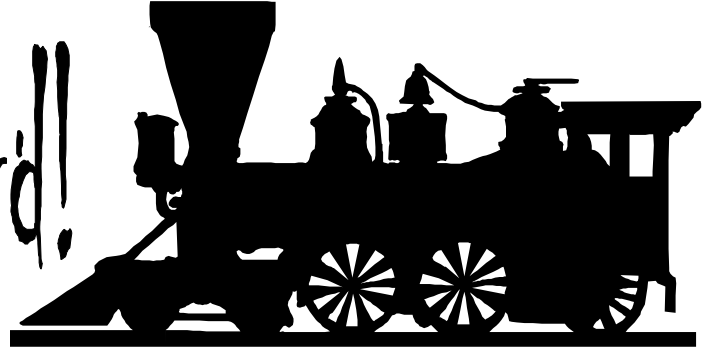


All Aboard!



District 2 Update

Volume 2, Issue 3
May 2002

The Metropolitan Transit Development Board voted on May 9 to ratify a contract authorizing the operation of freight train service along the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway that runs between San Diego and Imperial Valley. A private enterprise, the Carrizo Gorge Railway Inc., will make the repairs necessary to open the line and operate the rail service.

“This action represents a significant milestone in the effort to restore rail service from San Diego to the Imperial Valley and beyond,” said Councilman Wear, a member of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board. “The railway will provide a tremendous economic boost to the San Diego region due to increased opportunities to ship cargo from our Port to points east,” added Wear.

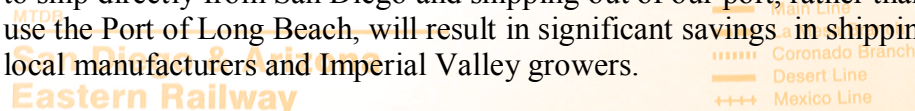
In 1907, San Diego businessman John D. Spreckels first began construction on the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway in order to give the city a cargo link to the transcontinental railroad. Construction took over ten years in the treacherous terrain of Carrizo Gorge, and lives were lost in the effort. But the success finally came in 1919, when Spreckels hammered in the final spike with the help of then-Governor of Baja California, Col. Esteban Cantu, who also happens to be Councilmember Wear’s grandfather in-law.

Once called, “The Impossible Railroad” because it traversed isolated and difficult desert terrain, the railway continued to operate until 1951 when passenger service made its final trip on the rails.

Huell Howser, the host of *California’s Gold* on KPBS-TV has documented the colorful history of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway on his program which airs on PBS stations throughout the western United States.

Since 1985, the San Diego Railroad Museum has operated a 16-mile roundtrip passenger excursion on the line between Campo and Miller Creek. Museum volunteers also began the lengthy process of trying to find a way to clear the line and make it operational once again. Agreements have been made with Mexico to plan cargo service into the Baja California segments of the line.

Re-opening the line creates a competitive cargo option with the current freight carriers and will benefit the goal of the Port District to reorganize into a more commerce-oriented entity. Carrizo Gorge Railway Inc. anticipates that the ability to ship directly from San Diego and shipping out of our port, rather than having to use the Port of Long Beach, will result in significant savings in shipping costs for local manufacturers and Imperial Valley growers.



Focus in June: Old Town

On The Docket

The City Council dockets are issued each Wednesday preceding the Monday and Tuesday meetings. Please call the City Clerk at 533-4000 for Docket information.

Budget Hearings are taking place every Monday at the Council Chamber until June 17, beginning at 2 p.m. Public input is appreciated, so speak out!

Item #110 on the May 14 docket proposed nominations to the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) board of directors. Julie Dillon and Reese Jarrett have been appointed to repeat terms. A new board member is Victor Vilaplana, who will sit until May, 2005.

District 2 Update

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Groundbreakings!

Councilmember Wear has been fortunate to participate in the planning and development of new commercial and residential projects. Out of 15,000 new residential units on the drawing board for the City of San Diego, 8500 will be in downtown. Here is a photo gallery of events throughout the district that demonstrate our Smart Growth policies set in concrete.



Park Laurel will be luxury residences adjacent to Balboa Park. Councilmembers Byron Wear and Toni Atkins, above, spoke at the project groundbreaking. Historically, the site at Laurel Street and 6th Avenue was once the address of the Sefton House, the family that owned San Diego Trust & Savings Bank.



Several San Diego dignitaries were on hand to celebrate the upcoming Santa Fe Place residential towers that are scheduled be built near the Santa Fe Railroad Station at the foot of

Midway Traffic Improvements Reach Agreement

On Monday, May 7, the San Diego City Council voted to formalize an agreement with Evergreen, the development arm of Walgreens Drug Store, to develop a right turn lane that would cure some of the traffic ills in the Midway area. The new lane will move traffic from eastbound Midway Drive to southbound Rosecrans Street, alleviating back up traffic on Midway and allow more cars to cross Rosecrans at each signal interval.

Last summer a representative of Evergreen paid a courtesy call to District 2 Councilmember Byron Wear to let him know of plans for a drug store at a former car dealership site at Midway and Rosecrans.

(Continued on page 4)

Breaking Ground! continued

Progress is being made on the construction of the Washington Street Skateboard Park. The project has broken ground and some of the concrete installation has begun. The mini-park will be a recreational spot for the teens of Mission Hills and Middletown.



After four years of planning, a ceremonial “groundbreaking” was held on a rainy day for Pacific Beach’s Bayview Elementary turf project. The joint use project with the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department and the San Diego Unified School District will include playing fields and grassy areas that will replace packed dirt as the playground for the school and community.

The “topping off” ceremony for the W Hotel at State and B afforded great views of San Diego never before seen. The roof will feature a Sand Bar , where you will actually be able to wiggle your toes in sand!



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Little did Evergreen's Tim O'Neil know that Wear would put him to the test on Evergreen's offer to be a good corporate citizen.

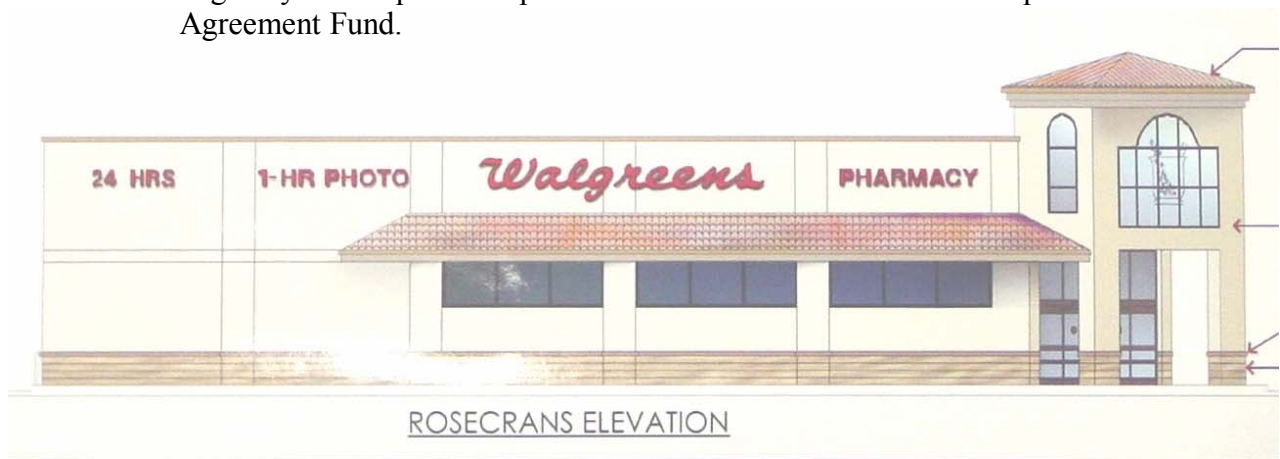
"In ancient times you had to go to an apothecary to get the right mixture to cure your ills," said Wear. "Well, we got a modern day apothecary, Walgreens, to make a major contribution towards curing some of the traffic ills at Midway and Rosecrans."

In addition, Evergreen entered into a reimbursement agreement with the City of San Diego to construct street improvements, including relocation and replacement of a traffic signal, relocation and/or replacement of a storm drain and catch basin and other public utilities, relocation and/or replacement of a raised median, traffic lane striping, the installation of a sidewalk, curbs and gutters, and landscaping.

"By having Evergreen construct the project we're assured of seamless integration between the new drug store and the traffic improvements," said Wear. "Walgreens will also contribute \$23,000 to the project and dedicate, at no cost to the City, street frontage along Midway from Gaines Street all the way to Rosecrans. They're doing this simply because they want to be good neighbors."

O'Neil recalled his first meeting with Wear, "I told him we were good corporate citizens and interested in helping the neighborhoods we do business in. Councilmember Wear was happy to take me up on my claim."

The project is a priority for the North Bay Business Peninsula Traffic Task Force and has an estimated cost of \$275,000. The Task Force is made up of community leaders from Point Loma, Midway, and the North Bay Business Improvement District. Additional funds come from the existing Midway/Pacific Highway Development Impact Fund and the State Route 209 Cooperative Agreement Fund.



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